

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 190316

12

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:KAKURZE

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:KAKURZE

----- 053920

R 250854Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 190316

EXDIS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR GEN GOODPASTER

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SANAA 1899 SENT ACTION STATE INFO JIDDA ABU DHABI
KUWAIT TEHRAN AMMAN ADDIS ABABA LONDON CAIRO 24 SEP RPT TO YOU
QUOTE

S E C R E T SANAA 1899

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, YS, SA

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF OF STAFF MASWARI; SAG FINANCING
LARGE EGYPTIAN ARMS DELIVERY TO YAR

1. SUMMARY. YARG WILL RECEIVE MAJOR SHIPMENT OF SAG-FINANCED
ARMS (TANKS, AIRCRAFT, ET.AL.) FROM EGYPT IN COMING MONTH.
MASWARI TOLD BY PRINCE SULTAN THAT SAG ENCOURAGES HELP FROM
OTHER FRIENDLY AREA STATES TO YEMEN. VISIT TO IRAN BY PRES.
IRYANI MAY TAKE PLACE SOON. I BRIEFED MASWARI ON STATUS LONG-TERM
MILITARY PROGRAM DRAWN UP WITH SAG. HE AGREED PROGRAM SHOULD
BE SCALED DOWN REALISTICALLY IN ORDER NOT TO OBSTRUCT YEMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS NEW HELP FROM EGYPT TO OUR
ADVANTAGE AS WELL AS YEMEN'S. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 190316

2. CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL HUSAIN AL-MASWARI CALLED ON ME
SEPT. 23 AT HIS REQUEST. PURPOSE WAS TO BRIEF ME ON OUTCOME HIS
TALKS WITH SAG MODA PRINCE SULTAN AND OTHER OFFICIALS DURING
TWO DAY VISIT TO JIDDA SEPT 18-19.

3. MASWARI SAID HE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF TALKS HE HAD HELD WITH SULTAN AND REPRESENTATIVE FROM EGYPTIAN PRESIDENCY, BRIGADIER ABD AL-RA'UF (REPRESENTING PRES. SADAT). MAJOR RESULT WAS SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR SAG-FINANCED DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY ARMS FROM EGYPT. ACCORDING MASWARI, YAR WILL RECEIVE FULL PACKAGE VALUED AT 34 MILLION STERLING BY END OF OCTOBER. MAJOR ITEMS INCLUDE TWENTY 5-34 TANKS, SIXTEEN T-54 TANKS, EIGHTEEN MIG-17 FIGHTERS, AND SIXTEEN SU-7 FIGHTER-BOMBERS PLUS RADAR SETS, ARTILLERY, MACHINE GUNS, AND RELATED AMMUNITION. MASWARI TELLS US YARAF HAS SUFFICIENT PILOTS TO MAN MIG-17'S, BUT AS PART OF PACKAGE, WILL SEND OTHER PILOTS TO EGYPT FOR CONVERSION TO SU-7'S. ALTHOUGH NO US-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT INVOLVED, MASWARI SAID USG DESERVES MUCH OF CREDIT FOR THIS PACKAGE, SINCE IT WAS USG URGING TO SAG TO HELP IN DEFENSE OF YAR THAT HAD STIMULATED THIS ARRANGEMENT.

4. MASWARI EXPANDED ON WARNING PRESIDENT SADAT HAD REPORTEDLY GIVEN PDRY PRESIDENT ALI IN PRESENCE YAR PRESIDENT IRYANI DURING ALGIERS CONFERENCE (SANA'A 1892) TO EFFECT THAT EGYPT WOULD DEFEND YAR AGAINST ANY PDRY THREAT. ACCORDING MASWARI, SADAT SPECIFICALLY INFORMED ALI HE WAS SENDING TANKS AND AIRCRAFT TO YAR TO MATCH SOVIET ARMS FLOWING INTO ADEN. MASWARI AGREED WITH MY PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT ONE FACTOR STIMULATING SADAT WAS HIS FEELING PDRY CONSPIRING WITH RUSSIANS AGAINST HIM.

5. MASWARI WAS PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED BY SULTAN'S STATEMENT THAT SAG ENCOURAGED YARG TO TAKE LEAD IN SEEKING HELP FROM OTHER FRIENDLY AREA STATES. SULTAN MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY ETHIOPIA, EGYPT, JORDAN, IRAN, KUWAIT, AND ABU DHABI. SAG WOULD SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS. MASWARI AND SULTAN AGREED SUCH STEPS SHOULD BE PRIMARILY THROUGH PRESIDENT IRYANI.

6. MASWARI SAID THAT DURING EARLIER VISIT TO JIDDA HE HAD CALLED ON IRANIAN AMBASSADOR RA'ID AND, AFTER COORDINATING WITH SAG, HAD SUGGESTED THAT MOST USEFUL STEP IRAN COULD MAKE WOULD BE INVITATION FROM SHAH TO IRYANI TO VISIT IRAN. THIS TIME MASWARI
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 190316

HAD SEEN RA'ID AGAIN AND WAS TOLD IIG REACTION POSITIVE AND TIMING NOW UNDER STUDY.

7. I CONGRATULATED MASWARI ON HIS EFFECTIVE DIPLOMACY. IT WAS OBVIOUS YARG, SAG, AND WE ALL ON SAME PATH. OUR GOALS IN YEMEN WERE TO HELP COUNTRY DEVELOP ECONOMICALLY AND TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR ITS DEFENSE. THIS BROUGHT ME TO SUBJECT OF LONG-TERM PLAN WE DISCUSSING WITH SAG FOR RE-EQUIPPING AND TRAINING YAR ARMED FORCES ALONG WESTERN LINES. FOLLOWING GENERAL QABBANI'S VISIT, WE HAD WORKED WITH SAUDIS TO HELP THEM DRAW UP OVERALL PLAN WHICH HAD NOW GONE TO WASHINGTON. FRANKLY, THERE WAS FEELING PLAN TOO AMBITIOUS AND ELABORATE AND VERY EXPENSIVE. I FEARED BURDEN OF SO MUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD SINK YAR,

WHOSE FIRST CONCERN HAD TO BE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE HOPED SHORTLY TO HAVE IDEA OF WHAT ROLE JORDAN MIGHT PLAY IN OVERALL PROGRAM. WE COULD THEN SEE BETTER WHAT SAG MIGHT BEST DO TO IMPLEMENT REALISTIC BUT COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM SCALED TO YEMEN'S NEEDS AND CAPABILITIES. I CAUTIONED THAT WE HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED ANY REVISED THINKING WITH SAG.

8. MASWARI RESPONDED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SULTAN WHO HAD TOLD HIM SAG AND USG HAVE LONG-TERM PROGRAM UNDER CONSIDERATION (SULTAN MENTIONED TO HIM FIGURE OF BILLION DOLLARS). HE STRESSED THAT SHORT-TERM EMERGENCY AID FROM EGYPT IN NO WAY ALTERED YARG DETERMINATION TO RE-ORIENT ITS ARMED FORCES ALONG WESTERN LINES. SHIPMENT FROM EGYPT STRICTLY AN INTERIM MEASURE. HE AGREED YAR SHOULD NOT OVER-BURDEN ITSELF WITH LARGE AND EXPENSIVE ARMS INVENTORY COST OF MAINTAINING WHICH COULD DEFLECT YAR FROM PRIMARY TASK OF DEVELOPEMTN.

9. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH SAG-GOE-YARG TRIANGULAR ARMS ARRANGEMENT WILL PROVIDE MORE SOVIET-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT TO YEMEN, BELIEVE THIS NOT BAD THING FROM USG VIEWPOINT. FIRST IT BRINGS ANOTHER PLAYER (EGYPT) INTO GAME ALONGSIDE YAR AND FURTHER ISOLATES PDRY. SECONDLY, IT WILL HELP NEGATE SOMEWHAT YARG'S REAL FEELING OF MILITARY HELPLESSNESS IN FACE PDRY (PARTICULARLY

LACK OF ARMOR AND AIRCRAFT). THIRDLY, IF PAST HISTORY A GUIDE, OPERATIONAL LIFE OF EQUIPMENT LIKELY TO BE RATHER SHORT

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 190316

GIVEN PROBLEMS OF MAINTENANCE. FINALLY, IT NEGATES SOVIET POLICY OF LEAVING YARG TWISTING SLOWLY IN WIND BY SHUTTING PIPELINE TO SOVIET-EQUIPPED YAR ARMED FORCES WHILE BUILDING UP PDRY FORCES. CRAWFORD UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE190316
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750014-0323
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730963/abqceirs.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF OF STAFF MASWARI; SAG FINANCING LARGE EGYPTIAN ARMS DELIVERY TO YAR
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, YS, SA, (MASWARI, HUSAIN AL)
To: CINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005